INTEROPERABILITY IN VIRGINIA

Panel Name: **The Status of Technical Standards Development**

Speakers:
Dorothy Spears-Dean, Virginia Information Technologies Agency
Dereck Orr, Program Manager, NIST – Office of Law Enforcement Standards
(OLES) and member of Project 25 Steering Committee

Question and Answer Session:

Q: How do I get invited to participate in P25 development discussions?

A: P25 is an open standards process and consensus based. Anyone can
come. Nobody owns it. Get involved with P25 if you're interested.   Contact P25
via the web site. As a manufacturer, you can call your P25 contact at
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA). Ask TIA what you need to do to
be included as a manufacturer.

Chris keeps a good relationship with the Project 25 Steering Committee. You
can also contact Chris.

**Q: Have standards been agreed to and published, first generation
radios are available. Where does the "watchdog" take over? Who's going
to make sure?**

A: These tests are not performed in a closed environment, but a group
environment. We're looking to fund a practitioner resource group along with a
staff of government engineers who can act as observers if someone is going to
do an official test of their system. You'd have to achieve sign off using the
observer process. Sign-off won't come from a lab test without observation.

Where it makes sense testing takes place in the manufacturer lab; for example,
with trunked infrastructure.

Dept of Interior is performing some conventional radio tests. Another possibility:
establishment of a National Voluntary Lab Accreditation Program (NVLAP).

NVLAP program would accredit third party labs to perform compliance testing. We may accredit 3rd party labs and the manufacturer will pay them to perform the test, but we have oversight to ensure tests are done correctly.

The Project 25 Steering Committee is looking at multiple options. We may adopt and use a mix of these options.

Q: Who accepts the change requests? Who will manage the change requests?

A: Project 25 manages changes to the standards. Formal committees are used to evaluate recommendations. They meet approximately four (4) times a year. You can put in recommendations and they may or may not pass. It's a consensus process.

For new requirement, Public Safety and Federal representatives make up the P25 Steering Committee. They develop the requirements from Public Safety's point of view. TIA then develops technical standards to meet those requirements. Users can go to P25. If it's a technical issue, then technical committee in TIA will address it.

If you go to P25 meeting, there are multiple committee meetings.
Go to a user committee if you're a user.